

Report to Council



Date: November 6, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: 2024/25 BC Active Transportation Grant Application
Department: Integrated Transportation

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the report from Integrated Transportation dated November 6, 2023, with respect to the 2023/24 BC Active Transportation Grant;

AND THAT Council authorize staff to apply for two Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants for the Rail Trail to Greenway ATC and Bertram Multi-Use Overpass projects, as outlined in this report;

AND THAT The City of Kelowna confirms the above-mentioned projects are municipal priorities, planned for construction in 2024 and intended to be complete within the required timeline for the grant;

AND THAT Council support staff to manage all tasks necessary to complete the grant, if successful;

AND THAT the 2024 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt of funds if the grant application is successful;

AND FURTHER THAT The City of Kelowna will be responsible for its share of eligible costs, ineligible costs, and potential overruns related to the project.

Purpose:

To authorize staff to apply for a BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant for the Rail Trail to Greenway and Bertram Multi-Use Overpass.

Council Priority Alignment:

Transportation

Background:

The Province of British Columbia’s Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program supports active transportation networks that are safe, accessible, and convenient for all ages and abilities.

Local governments are allowed to submit applications for two projects, covering 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$500,000 per project. The City has received \$7.2 million in financial support through this program since 2014.

Discussion:

The Bertram Multi-Use Overpass will provide an accessible connection for people walking, rolling, and biking across Highway 97 between the Central Green development and downtown. The overpass is the first phase of the Bertram ATC Corridor, a 1.3km bike route across downtown and providing ready access to UBC Okanagan's new campus.

The Rail Trail to Greenway ATC will add 600 metres of protected bike lanes to Leckie Rd, between Dilworth Dr and Highway 97 N. This will connect to the existing multi-use pathway on Leckie Rd south of the highway. It will complete the first link between two of Kelowna's primary off-street active transportation corridors – the Okanagan Rail Trail and Mission Creek Greenway.

Conclusion:

These projects are in alignment with the 2040 Official Community Plan, 2040 Transportation Master Plan, 10-Year Capital Plan, Community for All Action Plan, and will help achieve Council's Priority of more trips by alternative transportation modes.

If these applications are successful, the City will use the funding to substitute for existing project funding, address potential cost overruns or scope changes, and explore opportunities to accelerate additional infrastructure for walking and biking identified in the 10-Year Capital Plan.

Internal Circulation:

Financial Services
Communications
Partnerships Office

Considerations applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Funding of \$12.1 million for the Bertram Multi-Use Overpass is currently included in the 2023 Financial Plan.

Funding of \$3.95 million for the Rail Trail to Greenway ATC is included in the 10-Year Capital Plan approved by Council in July 2023. A budget request for that amount will be included in the 2024 Preliminary Budget for Council's consideration in December 2023.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Communications Comments:

Consultation and Engagement:

Existing Policy:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Personnel Implications:

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Reviewed by: B. Hallam, Integrated Transportation Department Manager

Approved for inclusion: M. Logan, Infrastructure General Manager

cc: Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Financial Services
Divisional Director, Partnership & Investments